

TWIN SPICA



Kou Yaginuma

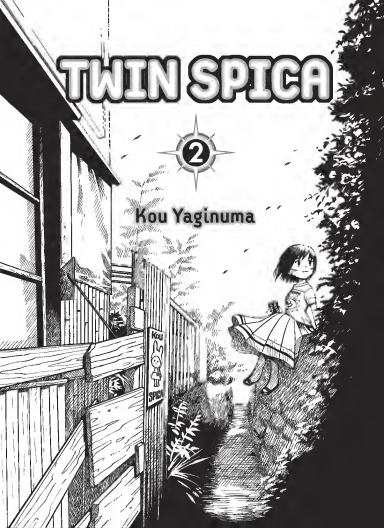
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A Publishers Weekly Big Graphic Novels of 2010 Selection

TWIN SPICA



Kou Yaginuma





CONTENTS

MISSION:05.....	003
MISSION:06.....	035
MISSION:07.....	065
MISSION:08.....	095
★	
CAMPANELLA'S FOREST.....	125
OUR STARS, LEAF STARS.....	155
ANOTHER SPICA.....	185





THE
YEAR
2024

THE FIRST
INTERNATIONAL
SPACE STATION,
AFTER MANY
YEARS
IN ORBIT,
IS COMPLETING
ITS MISSION.

...AND THE LAST
MODULE WAS
ENTERED THE
ATMOSPHERE;
THE FIRST ISS WAS
SAFELY BURNED
UP OVER THE
PACIFIC,

PUTTING
THE FEARS
OF SOME
TO REST.

SALE



AND
I—



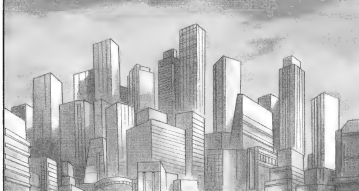
SHOULD
BE THERE
SOON.



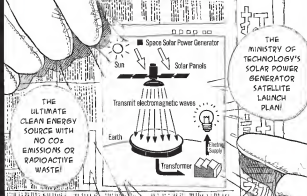
FROM
NOW
ON
NATIONS
WILL GO
THEIR
OWN...

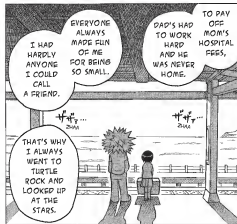
MISSION:05













AH!
THE
TRAIN'S
HERE!



I
REALLY
WILL
BE
ALL
ALONE.

BUT
FROM
NOW
ON



BECAUSE
YOU WERE
ALWAYS
WITH ME.

BUT
I WAS
NEVER
LONELY



MY
TEACHER.

アハハ
SAKURA



YOU STILL
THINK
ABOUT
HER,
DON'T
YOU?



サッ
サッ
サッ

HEY
MR.
LION?

HM?



W-
WHAT?

WHY
THE
AMBUSH
?

THAT'S WHY
YOU CAN'T
LEAVE
THIS TOWN,
RIGHT?













WELL

I HAVE TO
GET GOING
TO MY JOB.
SEE YA!



I PUT ALL
YOUR
BOXES IN
YOUR
ROOM.

THE
KITCHEN
AND
WASHER
ARE
SHARED

BUT YOU
HAVE
YOUR
OWN
BATH-
ROOM.
NO
WORRIES
THERE.



I'M
RINGO
SAKASHITA,
3RD YEAR IN
THE MEDICAL
SCIENCE
COURSE.

FEEL
FREE TO
ASK ME
ABOUT
ANYTHING.



IT'S JUST
ALLERGIES.



AREN'T
YOU
FEELING
SICK?

OH,

UHM...



OH,

THIS.

WHAT?

SICK?





THE TOTAL
STUDENT
BODY IS 2100.
EACH FRESHMAN
CLASS HAS ABOUT
400 STUDENTS,
BUT THE
WOULD-BE
ASTRONAUTS
NUMBER
JUST 26.

THE
TOKYO
NATIONAL
SPACE
SCHOOL.

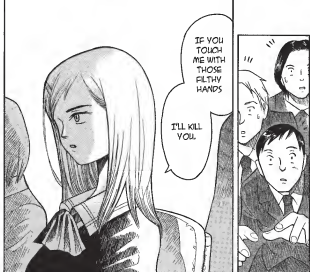
A VOCATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL
FOR FUTURE
SPACE SPECIALISTS
THAT WAS
ESTABLISHED
IN 2014,
THE SAME YEAR
THE GOVERNMENT
RELEASED
THEIR "SPACE
DEVELOPMENT
PROMOTION PLAN."

THERE ARE
DIVERSE TRACKS,
INCLUDING
COSMOLOGICAL
MEDICINE,
SPACE
SCIENCE AND
ASTRONOMY.
EACH TRACK
VARIES
IN LENGTH.

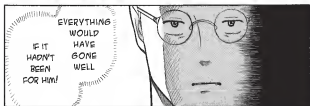
THIS YEAR,
THE 10TH
ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
SCHOOL'S
CREATION,
A NEW TRACK
TO TRAIN
ASTRONAUTS
WAS
ESTABLISHED.

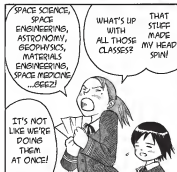




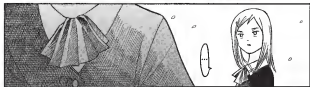


















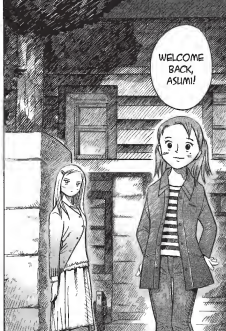
I NEVER
GOT THE
CHANCE
TO ASK HER
WHY SHE
CARRIED SUCH
A THING.



BUT
NO MATTER
WHAT, DON'T
LOOK BACK.







WELCOME
BACK,
ASUMI!



WE THOUGHT
MAYBE
YOU'D BEEN
KIDNAPPED OR
SOMETHING.

THERE'S
EVEN
A GUY
RUNNING
AROUND
WORRIED
ABOUT
YOU.

HEIH
?

YOU'RE
LATE!
WHERE
DID YOU
TODDLE
OFF TO
?

YOU
MADE
ME
WORRY.

HE'S
A RUDE
PAIN-IN-
THE-NECK
!

ROCK
ON!

HE HAD
A WEIRD
NAME...

HE WEARS
GLASSES
AND HIS HAIR
STICKS OUT
AT THE
BACK...

DRAWING
ME ALL THE
WAY OUT
HERE...

STOP
STICKING
YOUR
NOSE IN
!

WHATEVER.
I KNOW
YOU CARE
ABOUT
ASUMI.

NO, I
WASN'T.

OH YEAH?
YOU WERE
GETTING
CAUGHT UP
IN THE
SEARCH!

MR. LION,
I'M NOT
CRYING,
ALL RIGHT?

I'M
HAPPY.

H.R.H.
MARIKA,
WHY
DON'T YOU
GET OFF
YOUR HIGH
HORSE?

RIGHT,
ASUMI
?

ASUMI?

BECAUSE
I'M NOT
ALONE
AT ALL.

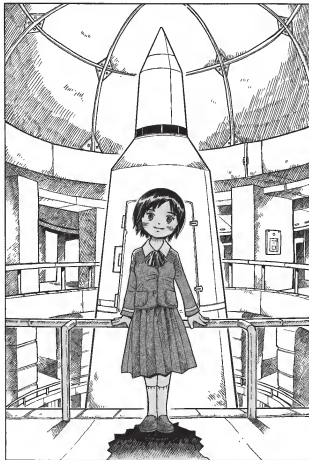
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
?

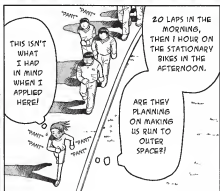
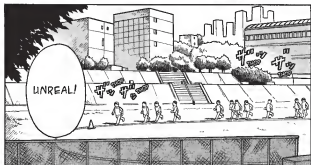
ASUMI
?

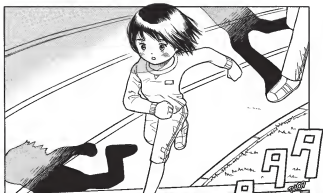




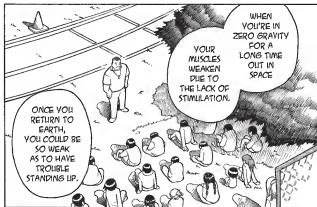
MISSION:06











MISS
UKITA?



I HAVE
AN
EXTRA
TOWEL.
WOULD
YOU
LIKE IT
?

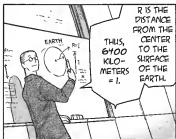
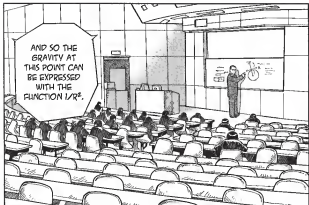




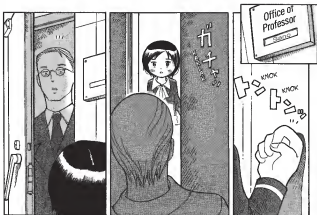








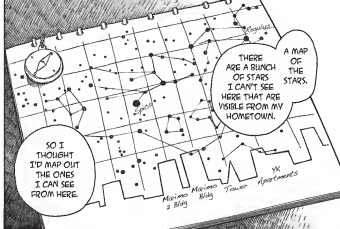












SO I
THOUGHT
I'D MAP OUT
THE ONES
I CAN SEE
FROM HERE.

THERE
ARE A BUNCH
OF STARS
I CAN'T SEE
HERE THAT ARE
VISIBLE FROM MY
HOMETOWN.

A MAP
OF THE
STARS.



THEY SAY
VIRGO IS
BASED ON
THE GREEK
LEGEND OF
PERSEUS.

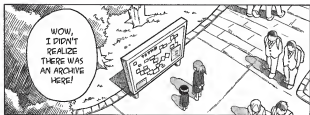


TOO BAD
YOU CAN
ONLY SEE
SPICA
FROM HERE,
THOUGH.

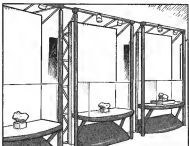
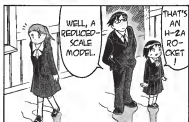
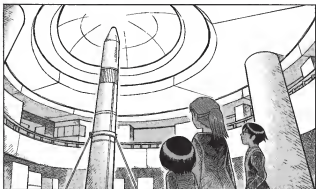
HERE'S LEO,
BEING CHASED
BY VIRGO.

HUH.











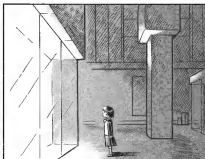


OH,
IF IT ISN'T
FUCHIYA.



NO REASON
AT ALL.

WHY
?







WEARING
THIS,
RIGHT?

ONE
DAY
WE'LL
GO TO
SPACE

WE'LL
ALL GO
TOGETHER,

WON'T
WE?











TRY INPUTTING
YOUR NUMBER
INTO THE
KEYBOARD
USING THE
GLOVE.

DOES IT
FIT YOUR
LEGS?

DOES IT
HURT
ANYWHERE
?

ASUMI
KAMOGAWA,
NUMBER
AZ4-22!

OK!

NEXT!



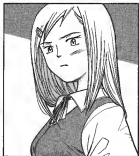
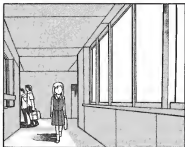
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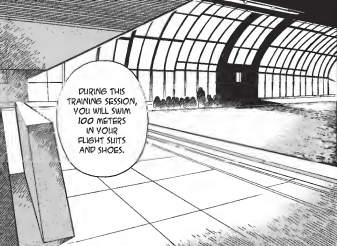












DURING THIS
TRAINING SESSION,
YOU WILL SWIM
100 METERS
IN YOUR
FLIGHT SUITS
AND SHOES.



BY
THE
WAY

REMEMBER,
THIS EXERCISE
WILL GIVE YOU
THE STRENGTH
NECESSARY TO
SURVIVE AN
EMERGENCY
SITUATION.



SINCE
YOU'VE BEEN
WORKING
OUT DAILY,
IT SHOULDN'T
BE THAT
HARD.

THIS IS THE
MINIMUM
REQUIRED FOR
THE BASIC
TRAINING
THAT WILL
FOLLOW.



THIS POOL IS WAY
DEEPER THAN
YOUR AVERAGE
SCHOOL POOL,
BUT DON'T PANIC!

HA HA HA!

WHA-?
!!

WHAT
A WISE-
ASS.





AND
YOU
LOOK
UPWARDS



WHEN
YOU'RE
UNDERWATER



LET ME
TELL YOU
A SECRET,
LITTLE
ONE.



A SECRET?



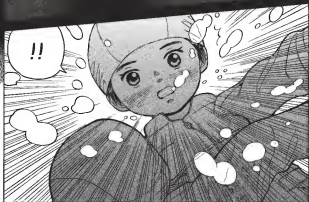
THAT
WEAK ME
WOULD
PROBABLY
NEVER HAVE
NOTICED.

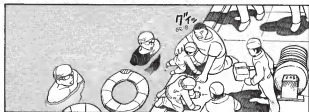


ALL IT
TOOK WAS
A BIT OF
COURAGE.



YOU
CAN
SEE
STARS!

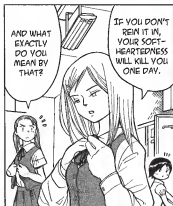




YOU
IDIOT
!

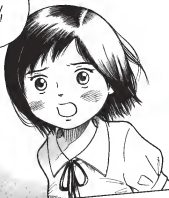
キーン
コン
コン
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NO ONE CAN
GO TO
SPACE BY
HERSELF!



I DON'T WANT
ADVICE FROM
SOMEONE
WHO'S JUST
HAPPY TO BE
ACCEPTED TO
THIS PLACE!

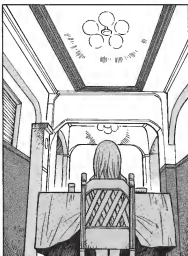


LET IT
GO,
ASUMI.

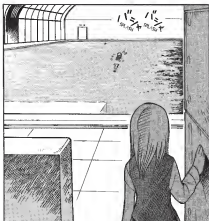
THAT'S
NOT—



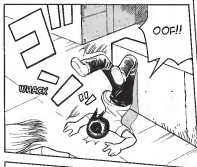












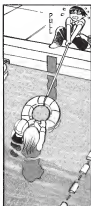
DASH
A"ッ



サ
バ
7

SPLASH







SHALL I
LEND YOU
MY UNIFORM
AS WELL?



HERE,
TAKE
THIS.



WELL
...

SOMETHING
WRONG,
MR.
OYAMA?

WOW,
THIS IS
TERRIBLE.



WELL,
THERE'S
JUST
ONE
ANSWER.

EH?



THE
BUREAUCRATS
AREN'T
GONNA
LOOSEN
THEIR PURSE
STRINGS.
THINGS ARE
TIGHT.

IN THIS
DAY AND AGE,
THEY DEMAND
THAT
SCHOOLS BE
FINANCIALLY
SOLVENT,
TOO.

HA
HA
HA

THERE'S A
GIRL WHO'S
SO SMALL
WE HAD
TO ORDER
A SPECIAL
SUIT FOR
HER.

BUT IT'S
GOING
TO BE
PRICIER
THAN WE
THOUGHT.



MISSION:08







CAN'T WE
GET IT
CHEAPER
?

A
MAKE-
SHIFT
SUIT?

SO MUCH
FOR ONE
STUDENT
?



IT'S A
LIFE-
SUPPORT
SUIT.
IT'S COMPLEX,
SR.



I THINK IT
BEST TO
GET ASUMI
KAMOGAWA
TO QUIT
OUR SCHOOL.



MAY I
SPEAK
?



WHAT
IS IT,
MR. SANO?





HANG
ON A
MINUTE.



EVEN IF
SHE PERSISTS,
IT SEEMS
UNLIKELY
THAT SHE
WOULD BE
CHOSEN TO
GO TO
SPACE.

IT'S
WASTEFUL
TO SPEND
SO MUCH
ON THIS
STUDENT—



IT IS
ABSRD
TO EVEN
SUGGEST
THAT THE
SCHOOL
SHOULD
FORCE HER
TO QUIT.



THAT'S
WHAT THEY
FOCUSED
ON IN
THE OLD
TRAINING
SYSTEM.

WHAT
DO SIZE
AND GRADES
HAVE TO
DO WITH
OUTER
SPACE?

ISN'T THAT
THE AIM OF
THIS SCHOOL
?

SPACE AS
A RESULT
COMING
CLOSER
TO US
ALL—

ORDINARY
CHILDREN
DREAMING OF
GOING TO
OUTER
SPACE—







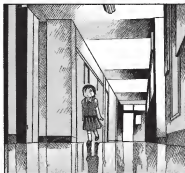




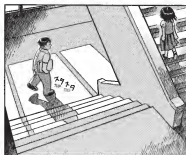


D. Marika Ukita
Asumi Kamoga













IS FOR
THE
CHOSEN.

SPACE
TRAVEL



YOU REALLY
BELIEVE
YOU CAN
BECOME AN
ASTRONAUT?



WH—
WHAT
ARE
YOU
SAYING?





IT DOESN'T
MATTER
HOW
HARD
YOU
TRY.



THERE IS NO WAY
YOU WILL
BE CHOSEN
TO BECOME
AN ASTRONAUT.



HAVE I
DONE
SOME-
THING
WRONG?

UM...



WHY
ARE
YOU
SAYING
THIS?

NOT
POSSIBLE.

I
MEAN,
I—

YOU
WANT
TO
KNOW
WHY
?



"FIX IT"?
HOW?

I CAN
FIX IT.

I...







DAD ALWAYS
CAME HOME
FROM WORK
EXHAUSTED



DAD WAS BOWING
HIS HEAD LOW
EVERY DAY...



DAD SOMETIMES
LAUGHED
SO SADLY...



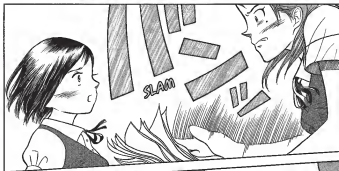
WAS IT ALL
BECAUSE
OF THAT?













WELL,
THAT'S
HURTFUL TO
SOME PEOPLE,
YOU KNOW
!!

YOU
REALLY
WANT TO
SUFFER
ALL ALONE?



HOW CAN
YOU SAY IT
HAS NOTHING
TO DO
WITH ME?!

YOU'RE THE ONE
WHO WANTED TO
GO WITH EVERYONE
TO OUTER SPACE!



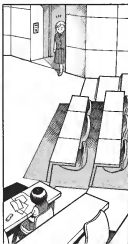
WHY
ARE YOU
CLAMMING
UP NOW
?!

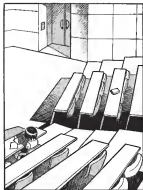
YOU CAN
TELL ME
ANYTHING,
THAT'S
WHY WE'RE
FRIENDS!

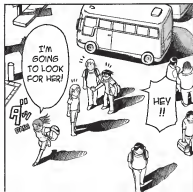
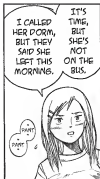


I HATE
YOU
!!

IF
YOU'RE
JUST
GONNA
LOOK
SAD,







REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN
BECOME AN ASTRONAUT?

YOU

THERE IS NO WAY
YOU WILL GO TO
OUTER SPACE.

NO
MATTER
HOW HARD
YOU TRY,

IT'S
BECAUSE
YOUR
FATHER—

YOU
WANT
TO KNOW
WHY?



MADE
"THE LION"
CRASH!



CONTINUED IN TWIN SPICA VOL. 3



Campanella's Forest







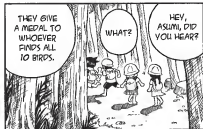




















IT'S A
ROCKET!!

WOW!!

I won't
accept
this.

Resignation

This isn't
like you.

why
you
wanted
to
teach.

I hope
you'll take
some time
to think
back on

You're young,
and still
have lots
to learn

I JUST FEEL SAD
AND EMPTY AND
OVERWHELMED.

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I WANT TO DO
ANYMORE.

I WANT TO
SEE YOU
AGAIN.

TO SEE YOU
AGAIN.

HELP ME,
DARLING.

LOOK!

TEACHER!





There's
these
abandoned
tracks

LONG
AGO

I THINK
I HEARD
ABOUT
THEM

HOW
DID I
KNOW
ABOUT
THESE
TRACKS



I built a
hideout
along the
tracks.

I laid out
straight
in the
heart
of the
forest.



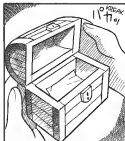
It's in the
shape of a
rocket...

Every day,
little by little,
I brought
plywood and
metal sheets
out there.



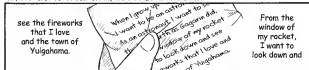






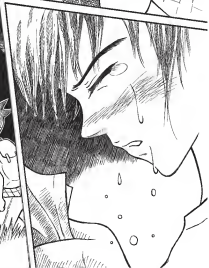
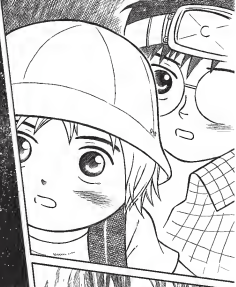


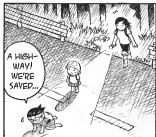
*YURI GAGARIN, A SOVIET COSMONAUT, WAS THE FIRST HUMAN IN SPACE.





That is
my dream.











THE SPACE
DEVELOPMENT
CONSORTIUM
ESTABLISHED
A COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE
THE
ACCIDENT.

AFTER
"THE LION"
CRASHED,
KILLING
AND
INJURING
MANY
PEOPLE.

THIS...

HUH?

KAMO-
GAWA,
SUCKS
TO BE
YOU

ONE
SECTION
WAS
DEDICATED
TO MAKING
REPA-
RATIONS
TO CIVILIAN
VICTIMS.

THAT
WAS
ALSO

Notice of Appointment

Tomoro Kamogawa

To Bereaved Families Section,
Accident Investigation Committee

5 YEARS
AGO.

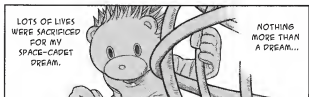
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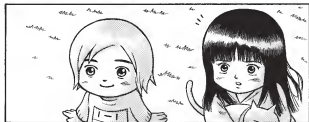














IN SOME
ROCKET
ACCIDENT...

YOU KNOW
WHAT?
MY DADDY DIED
RIGHT AFTER
I WAS BORN.





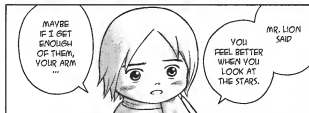














KILLED
MY DAD!



YOU
HAVE
EVERY-
THING!!

YOU
HAVE
BOTH!!

I WANT
A DAD
AND A
PRETTY
ARM!

TELL
YOUR DAD
WE DON'T
WANT ANY
MONEY!



YOU'RE
...
YOU'RE
...



YOU'RE
NOT MY
FRIEND!!









ガタンゴトン ガタンゴトン
KTUN KTUN KTUN



ガタンゴトン ガタンゴトン ガタンゴト
KTUN KTUN KTUN KTUN KTUN



OPEN THE
WINDOW,
MAMA!

KASANE,
WHERE ARE
YOUR
MANNERS?



BLACK!
ハッ

HURRY,
OPEN IT!





LOOK!!

KASANE
!!



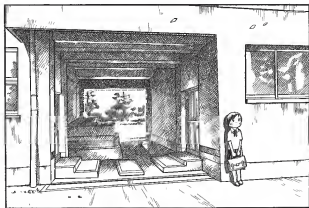
YOU'LL
FEEL
BETTER!

WHEN YOU
LOOK AT
THE STARS,





ANOTHER SPICA



KOU YAGINUMA

Day after day
I had to
make sure
the diaper
supply
was up.

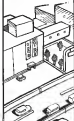


ガラガラガラガラ
ROLL ROLL



I was in
charge of
kids' clothes
and
babyware.

I was working
part time
at a large
shopping mall
near a coast
road.



This
happened
many
summers
ago.



THERE
WE
HAVE
IT,
HUH?!



WE
NEED
MORE
SALES,
OKAY?!

IT'S
NOT
THE
SAME
!



AREN'T YOU
TRYING TO
ENTER A
PROFESSION
WHERE YOU
GIVE HOPE
AND DREAMS
TO KIDS?

ICK!
TODAY
TOO
?!



VASE-
NUMA,
CAN YOU
DO THAT
THING?



On that day,
around noon,
when there
were few
customers
and my brain
was foggy,



I was
braving
death by
dehydration.



Since
I tend to
sweat
like mad,



Wearing an outfit like
that in the summer
really sucks.



POOR
US.



WE MUST BE
A PART-
TIMER
TOO.



IT'S BEEN
3 YEARS
SINCE
GRADUATION.

WHAT
AM I
DOING
HERE?







It all
made
me feel
lonely.

SCREE
ササササ
ノノ



N-
NOPE,
SORRY.



AH...



That I'd
forgotten my
unchanging
dream.

That she
was carrying
diapers.

How she
was prettier
than ever.

Looks like
this
summer's
gonna be
hot, too.



I wonder
if she's
well,
if her
dreams
came true.



But now
I'm here,

barely
clearing
dead-
lines
for real.



Notes on the Translation

P. 59

In Japanese folklore, a *zashiki warashi* is a beneficial child spirit that lurks mostly unseen in prosperous houses.



P. 126

Campanella is the name of the protagonist's friend and companion in Kenji Miyazawa's fantasy novel *Night on the Galactic Railroad*.



Translation - Maya Rosewood
Production - Hiroko Mizuno
Rina Nakayama

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MEDIA FACTORY, Inc., 2001

This is a work of fiction...

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Does Asumi have the right stuff?

In a Tokyo of the not-too-distant future a young girl looks up to the stars with melancholy in her heart and hope in her eyes. Thirteen-year-old Asumi Kamogawa's whole life has been tied to those stars; her future may very well be among them. And she is not alone... Asumi is just one of many young people with ambitions to become a member of the first class admitted to the Tokyo Space School.

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"Twin Spica is told with an uncommonly graceful blend of optimism and melancholy. Artist Kou Yaginuma takes his sci-fi premise seriously, and he treats his characters with warmth and intelligence. Strongly recommended."

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